

Bill to amend the Cochin Municipal Regulation.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Sir, I rise to move that the Bill to amend the Cochin Municipal Regulation XI of 1096 be read in Council.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I beg to second it.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—The amendment now proposed is rather a pronounced omission in the existing Municipal Regulation causing the absence of a provision defining clearly the purposes for which the Municipal funds may be applied. The matter was brought to the notice of the Government by the Municipal Chairman of Ernakulam. By adding the clause as suggested the Government is enabled now to find powers to divert municipal funds for necessary purposes (*Hear, hear*) and hence the Bill.

Motion put and carried.

Secretary to the Council.—The title of the Bill is 'A Bill to amend the Cochin Municipal Regulation XI of 1096'.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Under Standing Order 32 I request the President that the rule of 15 days may be suspended.

President.—It is suspended.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—I move that the Bill may be taken into consideration.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I second it.

Motion put and carried.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—I move that the Bill be taken up and passed to-morrow.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I beg to second it.

Motion put and carried.

Bill to amend the Cochin Cattle Trespass Regulation.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Cochin Cattle Trespass Regulation be read in Council.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I beg to second it.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—The reasons which have necessitated this are the existing Regulation was passed long ago and it provides only for trespass by cattle. Recently Government have received complaints from many agriculturists that in fact it is not cattle alone that cause damage to cultivation but ducks and drakes also cause enormous damage to paddy cultivation. In other words they also play ducks and drakes with cultivation. To give some relief in that direction, this amendment is necessary.

Motion put and carried.

Secretary to the Council.—The title of the Bill is 'a bill to amend the Cochin Cattle Trespass Regulation'.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Under S. O. 32 I request the president that the rule of 15 days may be suspended.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—I oppose that motion. We want time to know the opinion of the public. The House may be pleased not to dispense with this rule. There is no such urgency about it.

President—Was not this bill published in the gazette?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Yes.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Does the present Government include ducks and drakes also under cattle?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Government propose to bring an amendment by extending the provisions of section 10 to ducks and drakes.

President.—Since it was published in the gazette the public had time to express their views in the matter.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval—Probably two weeks ago, that is all.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Is it not entirely in the power of the President to suspend the Standing Order? Is there any necessity for the Council's permission? It is entirely in the discretion of the President.

President.—Yes. Since Hon'ble Members think that the public had not enough time, the ordinary course will be followed.

Resolution on Matters of General Public Interest.

1. Bifurcation of the Maharaja's College. (con'd.)

Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—Sir, in supporting this resolution I am not suggesting that we should go back of what we have done in the last meeting. I admit that there should be a finality to every question. I am also unable to agree with those Hon'ble Members who say that this House is not representative of the people in the State. If there is any body politic in the State which can voice the opinion of the people of the country it is this House and this House alone. As a constitutionalist, I am deadly opposed to any back-door methods aimed at flouting the verdicts of this House. I do not want the Maharajah to use his prerogative weapon, or the Executive to do anything in the name of expediency to thwart the considered opinion of this body. I want this House to be the sovereign body in the State. We should have the power not only to do right but also to commit wrongs. If we cannot abide by the decision of the elected majority of this House, how can we aspire to be the Members of a sovereign body in the State?

But Sir, at the same time I don't conceal the fact that there is honest difference of opinion on this matter. Many a time